

CLAIMS

1. A granular metal powder that:

(a) is produced by the steps of:

(a1) preparing a solution comprising:

5 (a1a) a medium selected from the group consisting of water, an organic solvent, and a mixture of them;

(a1b) metal particles having an average particle diameter of at least 1 nm and at most 100 nm; and

10 (a1c) an organic compound capable of being adsorbed on the surface of the metal particles; and

(a2) removing most of a medium selected from the group consisting of the water and the organic solvent from the solution; and

(b) has an apparent density of at least 1.0 g/ml and at most 5.0 g/ml.

2. A granular metal powder as defined by claim 1, the granular metal powder

15 **having a particle diameter of at least 1 μ m and at most 100 μ m.**

3. A granular metal powder as defined by claim 1 or 2, the granular metal powder containing the organic compound with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 20 wt% in terms of carbon content.

4. A granular metal powder as defined by any one of claims 1 to 3, the granular metal powder containing at least 0.1 wt% water.

5. A granular metal powder as defined by any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the metal particles are composed of a material selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Sn, W, Ir, Pt, and Au when expressed as the symbol of elements;

(b) an alloy of the metal; and

5 (c) a metal composite of the metal.